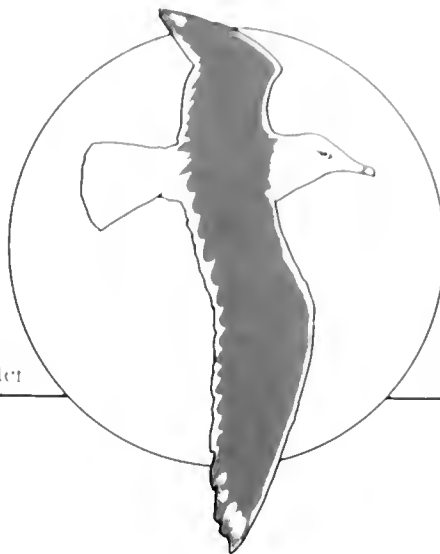


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The Gull



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Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 27, No. 4 April 2000

Save the Quail Campaign: Update Winter 2000

By Alan Hopkins, President, GGAS

The response to the campaign to help save San Francisco's remaining California Quail has been outstanding. GGAS's Allan Ridley and I met with the Strybing Arboretum Society's Helen

McKenna, Don Mahoney, and Executive Director Charlotte Cagan to plan ways to increase the quail's habitat in the Arboretum. A few weeks later, Dan McKenna of the Recreation and Park Department and Susan Nervo gave SAVE THE QUAIL the official okay to use an area in the Arboretum for quail habitat. On December 11, a group of more than 20 enthusiastic folks—young, old, and some hobbled—planted atriplex (salt-bush or quailbush), lupine, ceanothus, coffee berry, and other plants quail love to live in. Special thanks go to the students from Wallenberg High school and to Richard and Mary Liz Harris for their help. Although Richard and Mary Liz were unable to come to the planting, they inspired a group from the Church of Jesus Christ to join us. More planting and gardening will be needed to make the quail habitat ideal, and we will need more work parties.

In November, I gave a slide lecture on the California Quail to Strybing's docents, and Don Mahoney wrote an excellent article on the quail in Strybing's newsletter, "The Leaflet." In March 2000, the Strybing Book Club discussed **The California Quail** by A. Starker Leopold.

On December 24, 1999, SAVE THE QUAIL got a wonderful Christmas present from Peet's Coffee and Tea. Peet's employee Lloyd Cowan rallied his co-workers to support Save the Quail with \$630.75 from Christmas Eve tips! Peet's headquarters matched their 16th Street store's fundraising, for a total of \$1,501.50! And lifted by Peet's generosity, the GGAS Board of Directors matched Peet's gift

Thanks to All Our Generous Friends

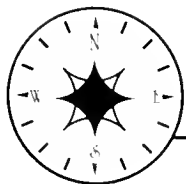
Last December, many of you received a letter asking you to help us meet challenge grants of \$20,000. Your donations will be used in our efforts at the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge for the California Least Tern. Your response was simply wonderful. We matched the grants and more. Thanks to your generous donations, we received over \$21,000.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will see that your dollars have already had a significant impact. With your help, we were able to employ our very effective lawyer, Roy Gorman, and were also able to send our Executive Director, Arthur Feinstein, and our Program Director, Dana Kokubun, to Washington, DC. These efforts were rewarded by promises that a temporary fence will be erected in time to protect the Least Terns during their April-through-September nesting season.

That's great for this year, but it is only a temporary fence. Now we need to convince the agencies to make the fence permanent, at an estimated cost of \$300,000. We're already hearing some resistance to that idea, so we know that our struggles are not yet over.

For now, however, we can all feel comforted that the terns will have a chance this nesting season—thanks to all of you who contributed!

Continued on page 6



Field Trips Calendar

Saturday April 1, SUNOL REGIONAL PARK, Alameda County.

See March Gull for details. Leader: Ron Lindeman (510) 656-0511. \$

Sunday April 2, STRYBING ARBORETUM, San Francisco.

First day of daylight savings time.
Otherwise, see May 7 trip for details.
Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-5241.

Saturday April 8, BREEDING BIRDS OF SAN FRANCISCO.

See March Gull for details. Leader: Harry Fuller (415) 668-8229, harry_fuller@zd.com. (*)

Sunday April 9, RUSH CREEK, Novato.

See March Gull for details. Leader: Don Schmoldt (look for his white Jeep with "Baja Owl" license plates) (510) 547-5108.

Wednesday April 12, MINI-TRIP TO SUNOL REGIONAL PARK.

See March Gull for details. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301, and Jean-Marie Spoelman \$(*)

Saturday April 15, SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN (San Mateo County, north of South San Francisco).

See March Gull for details. Leaders: Herb Brandt (415) 239-2711 and Doug Allshouse. \$ to park in parking lot if gate is open.

Sunday April 16, ABBOTT'S LAGOON, Point Reyes National Seashore.

See March Gull for details. Leader: Lina Jane Prairie (510) 255-2902.

Saturday April 22, BOTHE - NAPA VALLEY STATE PARK, Napa County.

See March Gull for details. Leader:

Peter Allen (415) 892-8065. (\$)

Saturday April 22, POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASORE TWELFTH ANNUAL ALL-DAY BIRDING BLITZ

See March Gull for details. Leaders: Leon Abrams (415) 453-9980 (work), (510) 843-4107 (home), and Cathy Purchis (510) 865-9482. (*)

Saturday, April 29, MINES ROAD, Livermore area.

Meet at 8 am in the parking lot of the Nob Hill Shopping Center. Take I-580 east and turn right on No. Livermore Exit. Continue south 2 miles to the Nob Hill Shopping Center at So. Livermore and Pacific in Livermore. From there, we will caravan on mountain roads to I-5. We can expect to see Bullock's Oriole, Lewis' Woodpecker, Lawrence's Goldfinches, and Phainopeplas in this habitat. Bring food and liquids. Those who want are invited to continue with the group until dark. Because of limited parking along roads, carpooling is strongly recommended. Leader: George Bing (925) 443-5868.

Saturday April 29, AQUATIC PARK, San Francisco.

Meet at 9:30 am at the foot of the Hyde Street Pier (Hyde & Jefferson) for this beginners' bird walk. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Ranger Carol Kiser will lead this approximately 2-hour walk featuring wintering land and water birds of the area. This trip is wheelchair accessible. (415) 556-3002, days.

Sunday April 30, TILDEN REGIONAL PARK, Contra Costa County.

Meet at 8 am at the Nature Center parking lot for this half-day trip. Enter the park from either Canyon Drive (where Spruce meets Wildcat Canyon Rd) or Shasta Rd, off Grizzly

Peak Blvd in Berkeley and follow the signs to the Nature Center at the north end of the park. We will bird Jewel Lake and other areas. Orange-crowned Warblers and House Wrens should be vocal, Black-headed Grosbeaks should be present, and we hope to see migrating hummingbirds. Beginners welcome. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Lewis Cooper (510) 526-1773.

Saturday May 6, BRIONES REGIONAL PARK, Contra Costa County.

For this half-day trip, meet at 8:00 am at the west entrance to the park, off Bear Creek Rd, at the parking area on the left, just beyond the fee booth. See May 10 trip for directions and trip description. Beginners welcome. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Lillian Fujii (510) 236-4167, steveandlil@worldnet.att.net. \$

Sunday May 7, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

Meet at 8:00 am at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave and Lincoln Way) for this regular 1st Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" that attract a varied array of resident, migrant, and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-5241.

Wednesday May 10, MINI-TRIP TO BRIONES REGIONAL PARK.

Meet at 9:30 am at the west entrance to the park, off Bear Creek Rd, at the parking area on the left, just beyond the fee booth. From Oakland, take Hwy 24 and exit at the Orinda turnoff. Turn left and go under the freeway on Camino Pablo. Continue northwest about 2 miles to Bear Creek Rd. Turn right and go about 4.5 miles to the Briones Regional Park

entrance on the right (just beyond Happy Valley Rd). From the Richmond area, take San Pablo Dam Rd to Bear Creek Rd; turn left onto Bear Creek Rd. From Berkeley, cross through Tilden Regional Park on Wildcat Canyon Road, continuing beyond Inspiration Point. Cross San Pablo Dam Rd onto Bear Creek Rd. We should see and hear breeding birds such as Lazuli Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, Ash-throated Flycatcher, orioles, and more. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301, and Jean-Marie Spoelman. \$

Saturday May 13, WILDCAT CANYON REGIONAL PARK, Contra Costa County.

Meet at 8 am by the Arlington Clubhouse on Arlington Blvd (next to the tennis courts between Brewster Dr and Thors Bay Rd) in El Cerrito. From there, we will drive a short distance to the trailhead on Rifle Range Rd. We will encounter hills as we walk a transect of the canyon to bird the brushlands, oak woodlands, riparian streamsides, and grasslands. We anticipate seeing a few late migrants such as Western Tanager and a good representation of nesting birds including Grasshopper Sparrows and Lazuli Buntings. We will also identify common trees of the area. People with allergies should be aware that we will encounter grassy conditions. Bring lunch and liquids for this 6-mile hike, which Malcolm Sproul will lead for the 21st year. The trip ends at about 2 pm. Leader: Malcolm Sproul (925) 376-8945. (*)

Sunday May 14, MOUNT DIABLO STATE PARK, Contra Costa County.

Meet at 9 am at the Rock City parking lot, 1 mile after passing through the South Gate entrance. Take Hwy 24 to Walnut Creek, then go south on I-680 to Danville. Take the Mt Diablo Rd

exit, go left under the freeway, and follow the signs to Mt Diablo State Park. We will look for Rufous-crowned and Sage sparrows, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, swifts, swallows, woodpeckers, and warblers. Bring lunch and liquids. Trip ends about 1 pm. Leader: David George (510) 359-6848. \$(*)

Saturday May 20, AQUATIC PARK, San Francisco.

Meet at 9:30 am at the foot of the Hyde Street Pier (Hyde & Jefferson) for this beginners' bird walk. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Ranger Carol Kiser will lead this approximately 2-hour walk featuring wintering land and water birds of the area. This trip is wheelchair accessible. (415) 556-3002, days.

Friday-Sunday, June 2-4, YOSEMITE'S BIRD LIFE, Mariposa & Tuolumne counties.

The lower and middle elevations of Yosemite National Park are alive with singing birds in early June. A variety of habitats supports a rich diversity of bird life, typically including 7 flycatchers (4 *Empidonax* species), 5 vireos, 7 warblers, and many other species in full song and breeding plumage. Our meeting place will be the large parking lot 100 yards inside the Hwy 120 (Big Oak Flat) entrance to the park, which is 30 miles from Yosemite Valley. Meet there on Friday, June 2, at 5 pm and at 7 a. on Saturday, June 3, and Sunday, June 4. (If you arrive later Saturday morning, meet the group in Hodgdon Meadow, below the Hodgdon Meadow Group Campsites.) On Saturday, we will bird all day and look for owls in the evening. On Sunday, we will end by 3 pm. Nearby campgrounds include Hodgdon Meadow and Crane Flat in the park (reservations required - (800) 456-7275), Forest Service camp-

Donations

Least Tern (\$200 or more)

Janice and Frank Delfino, for Friends of Alameda Wildlife Refuge

Clapper Rail (\$100 or more)

Barbara Anderson

Gifts (to \$99)

Luanne Annable, Louise and Gerald Blume, Alys Briggs, Jane Dang (for the Bird Box), Ruth Dement, R. Dean Galloway, Bruce Howard, Kate Knight (for FAWR), Felix Laks, MD, Janet and Jim Leibeck (in honor of Caroline and Donald Plant), Hilary and Donald Lim, Margaret Lucchesi, Eleta McGlauflin, R. Malcolm Ohl, Trent Orr, Martin Reutinger, Rita Semel (in honor of the 50th anniversary of Elliot and Laurel Feigenbaum), Judith Ann Smith, Shelia Sondik, Barbara and Thomas Southworth (for the Least Tern), Sven Wahlberg

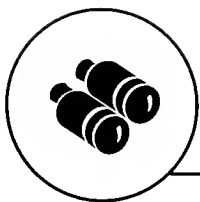
In Memoriam:

Jane Dang in memory of Dr Margaret Zeff, Ruth Dement, in memory of "all my dear friends. . . who have contributed to the conservation movement"

The Society Welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use of general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull*, as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

grounds Dimond C on Evergreen Rd (the road to Hetch Hetchy), and Sweetwater on Hwy 120. Lodging on or near Hwy 120 includes Sugar Pine Ranch (209) 962-7825, Yosemite Westgate Motel (209) 962-5281,

Continued on page 10



Water's An Important Element in Attracting Birds to Your Backyard

The American Robin is perhaps the most loved and best-known North American bird. It is recognized by even the most disinterested and is certainly numerous in yards with lawns and in city parks. It thrives close to us and nests in shade trees right by our houses. It was surely the first species in our yard I learned growing up in Tacoma. The robin's lovely song is rivaled only by that of the Black-headed Grosbeak for sheer joyfulness. Some years we have huge numbers in the Bay Area, as reflected on the annual Christmas Bird Counts. This seems to be one of those years.

English colonists, seeing the American Robin for the first time, assumed by its looks and its behavior that it was related to the Robin Redbreast of their homeland. It is, instead, a member of the thrush family. This is an example of the confusion that arises when using English common names for birds rather than Latin ones. The term "robin" is used for over 70 species worldwide. Most of these "robins" are thrushes, but some are Old World flycatchers.

For years it was assumed that when a robin suddenly halted and tilted its head, it was listening for a worm. It has since been determined that the robin finds its dinner by sight, not sound. Robins enjoy not only earthworms, but all sorts of annoying pests: beetles, grasshoppers, weevils, cutworms, ants and termites, and caterpillars. What better way to rid your yard of pests? Robins enjoy all kinds of fruit and berries. Its habit of gorging on pyracantha berries gives it the reputation of a drunken sailor. But opinions on how this happens differ. Are the berries

fermented and thus "toxic," or do the birds simply overload to the extent that they can't take off and fly? Maybe it's a bit of both.

Because I have no lawn and because robins have no interest in my seed feeders and don't even pick at my suet, I was surprised to note a handsome fellow on my deck railing beneath the feeders. As I watched, he slid his bill along the railing, then cocked back his head as if drinking. The railing was indeed covered with heavy dew. What puzzled me was that I have a suspended drinking saucer nearby. Why would he have preferred the rather difficult-to-obtain dew? Was this robin a gourmand who likened the dew to Evian? I'll never know, but he spent 10 minutes gleaning the moisture from a long section of the railing.

Water is the lifeblood of all organisms, but the amount needed by different birds varies a great deal. Many birds obtain all the water they require in the solid foods they eat and seldom need to drink. Birds that live in dry habitats and are seedeaters can go long periods without drinking. This is partially because birds do not excrete quantities of liquid urine as mammals do, but reabsorb most fluids internally.

The most common method of drinking is the rather awkward one described above. A bird takes a mouthful of water and then tilts the head back. When the head is held back, the glottis closes so that, rather than flowing into the windpipe, the water slips down the esophagus.

A few birds, notably pigeons, drink water as some mammals do, making pumping and sucking motions of their throats and then

swallowing without raising their heads. In fact, this is a characteristic that those who sort birds into families use as a measure of close relationships. For example, sandgrouse in Africa were thought to be related to pigeons, but they are not able to drink in the same way as pigeons and doves and may be placed into another order that includes shorebirds.

Aerial species such as swallows and swifts snatch a mouthful of water from a pond, lake, or your swimming pool while on the wing. They are such avian aces that I could easily spend an afternoon watching their antics.

Hummingbirds drink water from vegetation. Inside those long beaks are long tongues that are tubular at the tip and are brush-tipped. I assume that nectar or water is sucked up by the tongue's tip and then swallowed when the tip is pulled into its bill.

Water is the most important attractant to birds in my yard, both for drinking and for bathing. A sprinkler is irresistible to many, especially to hummingbirds. Bushtits love to bathe by rubbing through wet leaves. Our bubbling fountain entertains a continual whirl of bird life and at times is as busy as a freeway during commute traffic. The hummers use the bubbler on top the fountain like a Great America ride. Even a hose offers a quick dip to chickadees. My birdbath needs constant refreshing because it gets used all day long. The different bathing techniques are always fun to watch. The most curious of all, however, was the dewy railing and the robin.

Salmon and the Water Quality Connection: A San Gregorio Creek Forum

Wednesday, April 5, 2000, 7:00 pm, La Honda Elementary School

The San Gregorio Environmental Resource Center (SGERC), a San Mateo County non-profit dedicated to preserving rare species and habitat, will be hosting a forum on San Gregorio Creek issues on April 5, 2000.

San Gregorio Creek is home to a host of wildlife, including, but not limited to, federally-listed steelhead trout, many rare amphibians and reptiles, many bird species, and is one of San Mateo County's largest creeks. In recent years, more attention has been placed on the creek because of water rights conflicts, the possible re-introduction of federally-listed Coho salmon, and the need to reduce the amount of silt and sediment in the creek. Many residents remember a time when there were more fish in the creek, and are eager to help restore the steelhead fisheries.

The forum will provide info on the watershed, its existing fisheries, and the impacts of land-use decisions on water quality. This event will provide an opportunity for residents and concerned citizens to learn new ways for preventing or minimizing pollutants and sediments in stormwater runoff from impacting the stream and its aquatic inhabitants.

The watershed, as you may know, is home to a variety of land uses, including, but not limited to, agriculture, residences, and recreation. For the birders, it is a time to get together and share ideas with people concerned with pre-

serving the riparian systems as a whole for the myriad migratory and resident species who depend on San Gregorio Creek for food, shelter, and breeding habitat every year. Also, it's a chance to sign up for our newest stream monitoring program in San Gregorio Creek! Short talks will be given by area agency scientists and free information handouts will be provided.

When: Wednesday, April 5th. Doors open at 6:30 for refreshments. Forum will start at 7 pm, and end at 8:45. There will be time afterwards for informal discussion with the speakers.

Where: La Honda Elementary School, Sears Ranch Road. From 1 or 280, take Hwy 84 to La Honda, and turn north onto Sears Ranch road (next to Pioneer Market, across the street from Applejack's Tavern). Elementary school is on the right, about 1/8 mile.

Who: Scientists from the CA Dept of Fish and Game, Coastal Watershed Council, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board will be giving information on water quality, salmon and steelhead, and efforts to improve creek habitat. San Mateo County Supervisor Rich Gordon will give information on the County's efforts in the watershed.

Event is free and open to the public. For more info, contact Chris Larson at 650-726-2499 or sgerc@sanmateo.org

The San Gregorio Creek Forum is funded by the San Mateo County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program, a program of C/CAG

Save the East Bay Parklands: Become a Land Steward

Walking through the varied and beautiful lands of the East Bay Park District makes one glad to live in this exceptional region. However, these miles of open landscape and the creatures who depend on it for survival are often under myriad assaults. The Park District tries to manage park lands, but its budget is too low and its staff too few to do justice to this rich landscape. Let's help them prevent landscape degradation and habitat destruction by monitoring our favorite places.

When hiking through the East Bay parklands, keep your eyes and ears open. Be alert to changes in habitat and wildlife. Notice whether unleashed dogs are chasing birds or running through streams, feral cats are present, or bicyclists are riding on single-use trails or off trails. Are there impacts from new construction, such as overgrading and unusual runoff? Does the land seem overgrazed and creek

beds trampled, or does fire management in the canyons appear to be overzealous? Are herbicides being overused or ground squirrel poison canisters being placed too close to burrowing owls?

This spring, adopt a well-loved or -traveled site in your park and become vigilant in its defense. Think about how negative impacts can be lessened and the site improved. If you are interested in becoming a park monitor, please call GGAS's East Bay Conservation Chair, Jacqui Smalley, with your ideas:

Message phone and fax: (510) 655-6274; e-mail: small-ej@pacbell.net

If enough people respond, we will organize one or two committee meetings to become acquainted with each other and to develop monitoring procedures. Look for an update in the June Gull.

A Chance to Change the Future

All of us have reason to be alarmed when we think of the path our world is taking. Every day the news reinforces our concern about the destruction of our lovely old growth forests and wetlands, and the loss of habitats for our birds and other wildlife. But we know that despair solves nothing. Indeed, the actions of our fellow citizens give us hope that reason and good sense can prevail.

One of the most significant actions we can take as individuals is to consider placing a charitable bequest to the Golden Gate Audubon Society in our will or living trust. If even a significant minority of our members and friends did this, we could change the future of the world for the better.

For example, in 1979 Rachel Makower remembered GGAS in her will and left us a significant contribution toward our Sanctuary Fund. That bequest helped us contribute to the acquisition of the Marin Islands in 1992. These islands, located off the coast of San Rafael, are now a National Wildlife Refuge and support one of the most important egret and heron colonies in the Bay. The Makower bequest also helped us provide funds to the East Bay Regional Park District to acquire several hundred acres of wetlands in Hayward, now called the Ora Loma Wetlands. Thousands of shorebirds and other waterfowl will have a home for many generations, thanks in large part to Rachel Makower's generous gift.

This is just one example of how a single individual can make a meaningful difference. The success of the Sanctuary fund would have been possible without Rachel Makower's generosity.

Making a bequest in a will or living trust is easy. You can start by calling your attorney and telling them that you want to make a bequest. It can be for a fixed amount of money, or a portion of your estate. Many couples find that making a bequest upon the death of the surviving spouse is the best way to go. There are also significant tax advantages for making a bequest to a non-profit organization, such as Golden Gate Audubon Society.

The following is the suggested wording for making a bequest. Feel free to share this information with your estate advisors.

"I hereby give and bequeath to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., in Berkeley, California, the amount of

[state dollar amount of gift or percentage of estate]
to be used exclusively to fund the Golden Gate Audubon Society's conservation and education efforts. Golden Gate Audubon Tax ID # 94-6086896."

If you would like to discuss a possible gift through a bequest or charitable trust, please call Audubon Executive Director Arthur Feinstein at 510-843-2222. We have a team of volunteers who can advise you on the best course to take.

We hope that this is of interest to those of our members who are contemplating the future and who hope to contribute to the preservation of the natural world.

Save the Quail

Continued from page 1

for a total of \$2,603, all to help save our quail. Cowan not only raised money for the quail, he also helped with our planting and weeding in the Arboretum!

The December 28, 1999, San Francisco Christmas Bird Count had interesting and mixed results. Harry Fuller's Presidio team located the Presidio Hills covey, and there appears to be an excellent ratio of males to females for the upcoming nesting season. The most exciting news was that this covey was thought to have been extirpated. The only other San Francisco quail counted

were the Strybing birds. Although the Strybing covey produced 2 offspring, the count was 12 birds, down 4 birds from when they were last counted.

Ishi, the last quail in McLaren Park, like his namesake, seems to have become part of history. All attempts to locate the lonely bird have failed. With reintroduction as a goal, David Graves and his students from Luther Burbank School and the Visitation Valley after-school program continue to work to improve quail habitat around the park.

At Fort Funston, an important dune habitat restoration project to

protect the Bank Swallow colony will provide even more habitat for the quail there. The area proposed for restoration is above the Bank Swallow colony and will incorporate less than 3% of the total area at Fort Funston; unfortunately, dog walkers are opposing the project.

In just under a year of its existence, the SAVE THE QUAIL campaign has made remarkable progress, but the quail's future is far from secure. If you would like to help SAVE THE QUAIL, call Alan Hopkins at (415) 664-0983 or e-mail: ash@sfo.com.

Comings and Goings

By Arthur Feinstein, Executive Director

We're a conservation organization, so change is always unsettling. But change is inevitable, and our cast of members changes through the years. We always like to recognize the efforts of those who gave that little bit extra to make our organization succeed in its efforts to keep our natural world. It's time to tell you about 5 folks who are either coming to or moving on from GGAS.

Lillian Fujii has been our Field Trips Chair for several years and has done a simply marvelous job of maintaining the high standards of our extensive field-trips program. Lillian succeeded in instituting many new trips and brought her boundless enthusiasm to our Board of Directors meetings. Thankfully, Lillian is staying on as a member of our Conservation Committee, but we'll miss her sure hand at guiding our field-trips program.

Hugh Cotter has started a new business and also has just become a new father, and that's enough for anyone. Hugh is leaving the Board as a West Bay Director. He could be counted on to ask the probing questions that made us think twice before acting. Hugh also helped fine-tune our fund-raising efforts, without which we couldn't do nearly as much as we do now. Known among the local community as a top birder, Hugh continued to remind us that the Audubon organization is about birds. We wish him great success in his new enterprise and in his new role of father.

We're sure he'll do great and hope he finds time for GGAS in the future.

Ken Cardwell is one of our most cherished volunteers. Keeping our membership list accurate with over 5,500 members and thousands of address changes every year is no small task. Ken not only kept our membership up to date, he even created a membership database for us that makes the process much easier and more efficient. But now he's leaving us. Ken just celebrated his 80th birthday and looks ready for another 80. He's been a real pleasure to work with.

Caroline Kim was our Office Manager for almost 3 years, and she came on board thinking to be here for only 6 months. We've certainly appreciated all her work. Caroline was enthusiastic and creative in making the office run smoothly. She also took on a conservation fight of her own in trying to save a city park in Oakland from development. That story is not yet ended, but we wish Caroline the very best. We miss her presence in the office.

Kathryn Blake has come on board to take over the office management tasks. Kathryn has been with us only a few months, but it is already clear that she will be a wonderful asset to our organization.

Welcome to our new friends, and goodbye to all those wonderful and caring folk who are leaving.

News From the East Bay Conservation Committee Chair

By Jacqui Smalley — Chair, GGAS Conservation Committee

I recently volunteered to become the new chair of the GGAS Conservation Committee. It was last year, about this time, that I began attending the monthly meetings. Although I had been a GGAS member for several years, I had no idea this chapter was involved in so many important conservation projects. Not only does GGAS involved, but as you may have read in last month's Gull, it has been successful on many fronts, from the founding of the Alameda Wildlife Refuge, to stopping destructive developments such as the Gateway Project in Orinda.

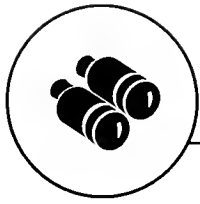
I was so impressed with what this grassroots organization could do with a small group of volunteers, and a talented executive director, that I was hooked. Perhaps it would not be so exciting if we merely worked hard, but had few successes. But seeing just how much we have accomplished over the past year makes me optimistic that our successes will continue in the coming year.

Meetings are held the second Monday of the month in the GGAS office in Berkeley. There are many ways you can

help. If you are currently involved in an issue or a project that you believe needs GGAS's attention, come to a conservation meeting and share your concerns. Speak up as an Audubon chapter member at public hearings, and come to a conservation meeting and share what you have learned. If, like me, you have no specific personal issue other than conservation, come and listen. I sat through 3 Mondays quietly until I understood some of the issues and then became actively involved.

We can succeed only if GGAS can count on the support of its volunteer base. There are so many issues out there that need our attention. If, like me, you often find it hard, as an environmentalist, to be optimistic given the many crises we face, attending the GGAS Conservation Committee meetings and becoming involved will change your mind. I urge everyone to come to a meeting and see what the East Bay Conservation Committee is doing to save the earth.

Jacqui Smalley can be reached at 510-655-6274 or at smalleyj@pacbell.net.



January 30–February 29, 2000

Northern California experienced a rainy period beginning the first week of February that continued until the end of the month, easing drought fears and bringing snowpack and rainfall amounts in the normal range. Glowing green hillsides provided a colorful backdrop for wintering birds, although it was a relatively slow period for unusual bird sightings. A sad note for followers of California bird records was the recent death of Arnold Small, PhD, author of the comprehensive *California Birds: Their Status and Distribution*.

Loons to Ducks

A **Yellow-billed Loon** (*Gavia adamsii*), a rare but regular winter visitor (Small, 1994) and Arctic breeder, was sighted at Tule Lake, SIS, Feb. 21 (EE). One Laysan Albatross was found on a Jan. 29 pelagic outing in Santa Cruz waters and 2 others on a Monterey Bay pelagic trip Feb. 4 (both DLSh). Those pelagic excursions also recorded 2 and 27 Black-footed Albatross, respectively (DLSh). A *Pterodroma* species, thought to be Murphy's Petrel, was sighted off the Cliff House, SF, Feb. 14 (ASH, KM). Pink-footed Shearwaters numbered 11 on the Jan. 29 Santa Cruz pelagic trip and 12 on the Feb. 4 Monterey Bay trip, and a single Flesh-footed Shearwater along with 41 Short-tailed Shearwaters were found on Jan. 29 (DLSh). Five additional Short-tailed Shearwaters as well as 42 Black-vented Shearwaters, the first of the winter, were recorded on the Feb. 4 trip (DLSh).

Several coastal reports of Greater White-fronted Geese continued to come in: 2 on the San Lorenzo R.,

SCZ, until at least Feb. 9 (DB, DSu); 4 on Moro Cojo Slough, MTY, Jan. 31 (MPRBA); 1 continuing at Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, MTY, Feb. 5 (MPRBA); another at Lake Merritt, ALA, Feb. 19–20 (JM, CL); and 3 more at Moss Landing, MTY, Feb. 19 (CK). Five Snow Geese were seen at Delta Ponds, SON, Jan. 30 (DS), and 7 at Harkins Slough, SCZ, Feb. 17 (MS). At least 18 coastal Ross's Geese were reported from Alameda, Humboldt, Monterey, and Santa Cruz counties, and 2 blue-morph Ross's Geese were at the Merced NWR, MER, Feb. 21 (CK). Eighteen hundred of the "Aleutian" race of the Canada Goose were seen at Beatrice, HUM, Feb. 25 (ABB).

Single Eurasian Wigeons were spotted at College Lake, SCZ, Feb. 2 (DSu); at Stowe Lake, GGP, SF, Feb. 3 (JC); near the Benicia Bridge, CC, Feb. 8 (SG, LC); at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, Feb. 18 (TO); at Kirby Park, MTY, Feb. 22 (MPRBA); and at Moro Cojo Slough, MTY, Feb. 26 (CK). One "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal was seen at Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, Feb. 13 (JW). Single Tufted Ducks popped up at several locations: Las Gallinas Sewage Ponds, MRN, Feb. 2 (KW); Lake Mendocino, MEN, Feb. 6 (MM); Yolo Wildlife Area, YOL, Feb. 4 (SH); Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, Feb. 13 (JW); at Lake Merritt, Dec. 19 & 20 (JM, CL); and Clifton Court Forebay, CC, Feb. 19 (TW). One Harlequin Duck continued at Fisherman's Wharf, MTY, Feb. 18 (MPRBA). Three Oldsquaws were reported during the period (some being referred to as the "Long-tailed Duck," a pending but still unofficial name change) at: Moss Landing Harbor, MTY, Jan. 31–Feb. 26 (AE, RF, LG, WG); at the Richmond Marina,

CC, Feb. 19–28 (LF, DF, SHay); and another continuing at Tyee City, HUM, Feb. 21 (ABB).

The **Smew** (*Mergellus albellus*), first reported Jan. 20, continued to excite birders through at least Feb. 15 at Old River, Tracy, SJ (SAr, TS, GL, MOB). The Smew breeds from northern Scandinavia east to the Sea of Okhotsk and in Kamchatka, Siberia, nesting in tree holes, and its normal wintering grounds are in Europe, near the Caspian Sea, and in China and Japan (from the ABA guide, "Ducks," by Boyer and Gooders, thanks to Larry Tunstall). Lillian Fujii called to my attention that, contradicting a local newspaper account, the Smew is an uncommon breeder within its range, according to Lars Jonsson's *Birds of Europe* (1993). Hooded Merganser reports were few, with 4 seen on the San Lorenzo River, SCZ, Feb. 4 (DSu); 1 at McKinleyville, HUM, Feb. 12 (ABB); and a pair at Harkins Slough, MTY, Feb. 19 (CK).

Hawks to Gulls

There were scattered reports of Rough-legged Hawks during the period, with 1 at Grizzly Island Refuge, SOL, Feb. 8 (JR); 5 others from 4 Humboldt County locations Feb. 7–13 (ABB); and another near San Luis NWR, SBT, Feb. 21 (CK). Two Pacific Golden-Plovers were at Moss Landing, MTY, Feb. 16 & 17 (RF); 2 others at Moro Cojo Slough, MTY, Feb. 18 (MPRBA); and a single bird at Lodi Sewage Ponds, SJ, Feb. 20 (RC, DBod). College Lake, SCZ, hosted 2 Lesser Yellowlegs Feb. 2 (DSu). The 3 Rock Sandpipers first seen in November at MacKerricher State Park, MEN, increased to an amazing 4 birds as of Feb. 17 (DT). A Stilt

Sandpiper was found at Merced NWR, MER, Feb. 4 (MB).

An intriguing report of a possible **Slaty-backed Gull** (*Larus schistis-gus*) came from Folsom Lake, SAC, Feb. 14 & 15 (BW). There are currently no accepted California records and few North American records of this NE Asiatic species, and it is hoped that documentation of the sighting can be presented for review by the California Bird Records Committee. The wintering **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*) continued at Lake Cunningham, SCL, Feb. 5 (CL). Ten reports of Glaucous Gulls were received from Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, San Francisco, and Solano counties.

Owls to Wood Warblers

Two Barred Owls, seldom-seen permanent residents of Humboldt County, were spotted at Orick, Feb. 21 (ABB). Another was found being eaten by a Red-tailed Hawk at Beatrice, HUM, Feb. 23 (ABB). An early Rufous Hummingbird was reported from Bayside, HUM, Feb. 7 (ABB). A Red-naped Sapsucker continued at East Philips Rd, SCZ, Feb. 2 (since Jan. 1) (DSu); another of the Santa Cruz birds was still at DeLaveaga Park, SCZ, Feb. 16-26 (since Dec. 30) (DSu, TN), and a 3rd remained in Soquel, SCZ, Feb. 14 (since Dec. 30) (DSu). A Hammond's Flycatcher was near Bear Valley Visitor Center, PRNS, MRN, Feb. 13 (JW). Two Eastern Phoebe's were observed during the period, 1 at Sutter Bypass Section of Sutter NWR, SUT, Feb. 14 (JS, JL); and the other at Old River, Tracy, Feb. 18 & 19 (SA, BW, MF). The Tropical Kingbird first reported in early January continued

at Lake Merced, SF, until at least Feb. 25 (JC, HC, MH). The **Thick-billed Kingbird** (*Tyrannus crassirostris*), first seen in mid-December, was still at Ocean Colony, Half Moon Bay, SM, through at least Feb. 20 (WG, GD, MGr, SGr). A Northern Shrike was observed in Northstar Park, YOL, Feb. 20 (SH); and an uncommon coastal Yellow-billed Magpie was found at the Salinas River Wildlife Area, MTY, Feb. 18 (MRPBA). Few unusual wood warblers were reported during the period (see chart). An early Wilson's Warbler was at the GGP Arboretum, SF, Feb. 26 (HF).

Sparrows to Orioles

Single Clay-colored Sparrows were observed at 2 separate locations near Watsonville, SCZ, on Jan. 27 and Feb. 4 (DSu); and another was seen at Morgan Hill, SCL, Feb. 3-8 (CL, JS), where 2 were found Feb. 5 (CL). Another Clay-colored Sparrow was at Arcata, HUM, Feb. 12 (ABB). A Lark Bunting, originally seen on the local Christmas Bird Count, was found again on Radio Rd, SAC (JS). A Swamp Sparrow was at Pine Gulch Creek, Bolinas, MRN, Feb. 4 (IS). Eight White-throated Sparrows were reported from Humboldt, Monterey, and San Francisco counties. The Harris's Sparrow reported in last month's column continued at Moss Landing, MTY, Jan. 30-Feb. 2-20 (RF, JD, LJ, MOB). There are excellent photos of this bird by John Sorensen photos on Don Roberson's website: http://montereybay.com/creagrus/MTY_2000.html. Another Harris's Sparrow first reported Jan. 19 continued through at least Feb. 20 at Grizzly Island Refuge, Feb. 8 (JR, EP, MF). A 3rd individual of this

Wood Warbler Sightings

Tennessee Warbler

Feb. 12 Lake Merced, SF PS
(continued from Jan. 17)

Nashville Warbler

Feb. 6-9 Lighthouse Field, SC ZAK

Lucy's Warbler

Feb. 19 Oakland, ALA SD
(continued from Dec. 26)

Palm Warbler

Feb. 24 Arcata, HUM ABB

Black-and-white Warbler

Feb. 4 Pine Gulch Creek, MR NIS

Abbreviations for Observers:

SA, Steve Abbott; Sar, Stephanie Arthur; DB, Dave Bockman; DBod, Dave Bodin; MB, Marj Bourret; RC, Rich Cimino; JC, Josiah Clark; LC, Luke Cole; HC, Hugh Cotter; JD, Jeana de la Torre; GD, Gary Deghi; SD, Sheila Dickie; AE, Al Eisner; EE, Elias Elias; MF, Mike Feighner; RF, Rick Fournier; LF, Lillian Fujii; HF, Harry Fuller; DF, Dorothy Furseth; SG, Steve Glover; LG, Lois Goldfrank; WG, Wally Goldfrank; SGr, Sandy Greenberg; MGr, Mike Greenberg; SH, Steve Hampton; SHay, Steve Hayashi; MH, Marilyn Hemminger; ASH, Alan S. Hopkins; AJ, Al Jaramillo; LJ, Linda Jordan; CK, Clay Kempf; AK, Anna Kopitov; WL, William Legge; GL, Gary Lifkowitz; CL, Calvin Lou; JL, John Luther; MOB, many observers; MM, Matthew Matiessen; KM, Kevin McKereghan; JM, Joe Morlan; TN, Todd Newberry; TO, Trent Orr; EP, Ed Paladrino; JR, Jean Richmond; IS, Ivan Samuels; PS, Paul Saraceni; MS, Michelle Scott; DS, Doug Shaw; DLSH, Debra Love Shearwater; JS, John Sterling; TS, Tim Steurer; DSu, David Suddjian; DT, Dorothy Tobkin; BW, Bruce Webb; KW, Kaynor Weishaupt; JW, Jim White; TW, Thomas Wurster.

Abbreviations for Counties and Others:

ALA, Alameda; ABB, Arcata Bird Box; CC, Contra Costa; GGP, Golden Gate Park; HUM, Humboldt; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MER, Merced; MTY, Monterey; MPRBA, Monterey Peninsula Rare Bird Alert; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; PRNS, Point Reyes National Seashore; SAC, Sacramento; SF, San Francisco; SJ, San Joaquin; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SIS, Siskiyou; SOL, Solano; SON, Sonoma; SUT, Sutter; YOL, Yolo.

species was reported from McKinleyville, Feb. 17-20 (ABB), and a 4th report came from Garberville, HUM, Jan. 30-Feb. 20 (ABB). A Chestnut-collared Longspur continued in Half Moon Bay, SM, Feb. 5 (AJ). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen in Santa Cruz, SCZ, Feb. 9 (DSu); and a Great-tailed Grackle continued at King Salmon, HUM, Feb. 19 (ABB). An Orchard Oriole, first reported in November, was seen again near the Palace of Fine Arts, SF, Jan. 29 and Feb. 12 & 26 (WL).

Field Trips Calendar *Continued from page 2*

Evergreen Lodge (209) 379-2606, Lee's Middle Fork (209) 962-7408, and Buck Meadows Lodge (209) 962-5281. Bring warm clothes, rainwear, rubber boots (wet meadows), and a large flashlight for owling. Be prepared to pack a lunch and walk about 6 miles. Leader: Dave Quady (510) 704-9353. \$ (*)

Saturday-Sunday, June 17-18, YUBA PASS, SIERRA VALLEY, Sierra & Plumas counties.

On Saturday, meet at 8:30 am at the Yuba Pass summit parking area (Hwy 49), 19 miles east of Sierra City. Take I-80 to Truckee, go north on Hwy 89 to Sierraville and take Hwy 49 west to Yuba Summit. (Or take Hwy 49 northeast from Auburn for a slower but more scenic route.) We will bird the mountain areas for summer residents including Dippers, flycatchers,

warblers, and Calliope Hummingbirds. On Sunday, meet at 8 am at the intersection of Hwys 49 and 89 (by the sawmill) about 1 mile north of Sattley. We will caravan to Sierra Valley, looking for birds of the eastern Sierra, including White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Crane, Sage Thrasher, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Camping is available at the following US Forest Service campgrounds off Hwy 49: Wild Plum (elev 3,300 ft) 2 mi east of Sierra City, and Chapman Creek (elev 5,800 ft) 8 mi east of Sierra City. Lodging is available at Sierra Chalet (530) 862-1110, Buttes Motel (530) 862-1170, Herrington's Sierra Pines (530) 862-1151, Bassett's Station Motel (530) 862-1297, Sierra Buttes Inn Motel (530) 862-1191, Yuba River Inn (530) 862-1122, and: Busch & Herringbone Country Inn (530) 862-1501. (Check with proprietor for loca-

tion of the motel or inn.) Leader: Peter Allen (415) 892-8063. (*)

Plan Ahead:

May 21: Leona Heights, leader: Rusty Scalf, (510) 666-9936, rscalf@jps.net

June 10: Hayward Shoreline, leader: Bob Lewis, (510) 845-5001, rlewis0727@aol.com

June 30-July 2: Lassen National Park, leaders: Dan and Joan Murphy, (415) 564-0074, murphsf@worldnet.att.net

July 2-3: White Mountains Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forests and area (Inyo County), leader: Rusty Scalf, (510) 666-9936, rscalf@jps.net.

July 30-31: Yosemite Alpine Ecology (by reservation only), Leader: George Peyton, (510) 433-2600 (day).

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites that require an entrance fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a (*).

Problems, etc: If you need information about a trip and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Lillian Fujii (510) 236-4167.

Events For Birders

Tricolored Blackbird Natural History & Census Taking Workshop

Saturday, April 8, 2000, Mission de Oro Conference Center, Ramada Inn, Santa Nella (I-5 & Hwy. 33), Merced Co., CA. 10am-Noon: Natural History & Methodology, Ramada Inn. Noon-1:30pm: Lunch. 1:30pm-Conclusion: Tricolored Blackbird Colony Visits. Get in touch with this ephemeral, unpredictable, and exciting species and its biology. To participate, or for more information, contact Bill Hamilton, UC Davis, E-mail: wjhamilton@ucdavis.edu or Bob Barnes, Audubon-California, PO Box 953, Weldon, CA 93258. E-mail: bbarnes@lightspeed.net Phone: 1-760-378-3044 Fax: 1-760-378-4013.

Tricolored Blackbird California 2000 Statewide Census

Saturday, April 22, 2000. Help define the current distribution and abundance of this imperiled species, the most highly colonial terrestrial land bird in North America, a title that used to belong to the now-extinct Passenger Pigeon. Professional investigators, including UC Davis's Bill Hamilton and Liz Cook, who are looking at the fate of colonies and their habitats, will follow up your observations. Your contributions to this effort will be important to the future management and survival of this species. To participate, or for more information, contact Bill Hamilton, UC

Davis, E-mail: wjhamilton@ucdavis.edu or Bob Barnes, Audubon-California, PO Box 953, Weldon, CA 93258. E-mail: bbarnes@lightspeed.net Phone: 1-760-378-3044 Fax: 1-760-378-4013.

6th Annual Kern River Valley/Southern Sierra BioFest Birding Festival & More!

Friday-Sunday, April 28-30, 2000, Kernville & Weldon, Kern Co., CA. Height of phenomenal spring migration 214 bird species at 1999 BioFest. Small group field trips...archaeology, astronomy, birding, Friday birders big day, bird banding, children's program, Friday dinner program including Native American blessing and "Valley Wild" slide show, historic Edison open house, 5K/10K walk/run, hot springs, lake kayaking, night walk, owling, post field trips (May 1-4), rafting, riparian habitat restoration, spring hikes & walks, traditional uses of native plants, trout festival, wildflowers. Featuring Audubon's Kern River Preserve Globally Important Bird Area (IBA), and Butterbrecht Spring National IBA. More information? Audubon-California's Friends of the Kern River Preserve, PO Box 853, Weldon, CA 93283, E: krpfriends@lightspeed.net, P: (760) 378-3044, F: (760) 378-4013 W:

http://frontpage.lightspeed.net/KRP/field_trips.htm.



Thayer's Legacy

By Harry Fuller

Thayer's Gull and the Surfbird are both winter residents of the Bay Area coastline. Both birds breed in the Arctic north of the 59th parallel. They also share a thread of human connections that includes 2 Bay Area birders. That thread began with John Eliot Thayer (1862–1933).

Thayer was the son of a Boston banker, Nathaniel Thayer, whose name graces a building at Harvard University. The elder Thayer also funded some of the expeditions by Harvard's Louis Agassiz. Young John graduated from Harvard, married, and moved to Lancaster, Massachusetts. There on the family farmland, he built a home near the Nashua River, a tributary of Thoreau's beloved Merrimack River. He rarely strayed from there throughout his life, even complaining when he had to travel 35 miles into Boston.

In the 1890s, Thayer became interested in local birds. He and his eldest son would spend hours afield collecting birds and eggs. Soon his collection needed a home, and Thayer hankered after more exotic species. He, too, began to pay for expeditions, first to Mexico and then to Alaska. Thayer, of course, never left Lancaster, but he had a museum built there to house his bird collection, which was open to the public.

By 1913 the Bay Area biologist, Joseph S. Dixon (1893–1952), was a veteran Alaskan bird collector. While still an undergraduate at University of California, Berkeley, he had gone twice to Alaska on expeditions led and paid for by Annie Alexander, who founded and funded the university's Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. After he graduated, Dixon worked at the museum in Berkeley. In 1913, Dixon led a group of Harvard graduates sent to Alaska under the patronage of John Thayer. The other scientist was W. S. Brooks of Harvard. The whole expedition nearly perished after their ship got trapped in ice along Alaska's north coast. That was September 3rd. While trapped on the shore of the Beaufort Sea, Dixon collected hundreds of birds, including a pale gull with pink legs. When the ship got free of ice in the summer of 1914, the men returned south. Back at Harvard, Brooks compared the pale gull with others already in the Harvard collection, labeled at that time "Kumlein's Gulls." The earlier specimens had come from Ellesmere Island. Brooks decided they were all representative of a new species and named it for the expedition's sponsor: *Larus thayeri*, Thayer's Gull.

The controversy over this species continues. Kenn

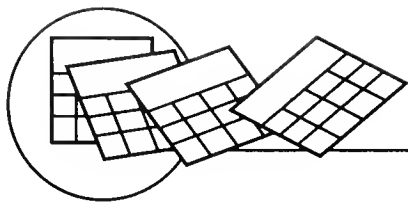
Kaufman in his *Lives of North American Birds* says, "It is closely related to the Iceland Gull, and the two are sometimes very difficult to tell apart; they may be only forms of the same species."

Dixon returned to Alaska, first in 1919, then again in 1926. This expedition was also backed by Thayer. Dixon took along a young Bay Area man, George Melendez Wright, who was still an undergraduate in biology at UC Berkeley. It was Wright who fulfilled Dixon's dream of finding the nest of a Surfbird. The coastal areas of Alaska had proved fruitless, and Dixon had wisely chosen to look upland where the natives had long claimed the Surfbird could be found "in mosquito time." The Surfbird was one of the last North American breeders to have its nesting habits discovered.

On May 28, 1926, a thousand feet above timberline on Mount McKinley, George Wright found Surfbirds and tracked one to its nest and eggs. It was the first ever seen by a scientist. Wright and Dixon watched the nest for more than a day, taking photos and movie film. They even saw the male Surfbird chase away a Dall's sheep that wandered too close. Finally, they killed the bird and took the eggs. Those specimens are now in the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology, where all of Thayer's extensive collection went after his death in 1933.

Dixon went on to a long career as a teacher; leaving UC Berkeley in 1931, he went to the Yosemite School of Field Natural History, run by the National Park Service. Many of his Alaska observations and publications were cited by A. C. Bent. Wright (1904–1936) also worked for the park service in Yosemite. With inherited money, he paid for and organized the first wildlife surveys in US national parks. He was well known among the conservationists of his day, being an early proponent of habitat and environmental restoration at a time when tame deer and bears were considered the ideal. He led the park service to protect endangered species and fragile habitat. While serving on the first international wildlife commission with Mexico, he was killed in an auto accident. His pioneering work is carried on by the George Wright Society (www.georgewright.org).

So Thayer's legacy extends from Harvard to Berkeley to Alaska to the National Park Service, and his expeditions added greatly to the depth of knowledge about shorebirds breeding in Alaska. All this from a man who never saw California or the Pacific Coast of North America.



April Meeting

Corbett National Park and the Birds of India

Nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas, Corbett National Park is the oldest and finest of India's national parks. Best known for its magnificent mammals, including tigers and elephants, its scenic landscapes also harbor an extraordinary diversity of birdlife, with over 500 species recorded in the park. Our speaker this month, Vivek Tiwari, will introduce us to the birds of India through a photographic tour of the park. He will also take us to other parts of India, as he provides information on traveling and birding in that country.

Vivek entered Princeton University as a graduate student in 1991. Since graduating with a doctorate in electrical engineering in 1996, he has been with Intel Corporation. He is passionate about birds and nature and is enthusiastic about assisting more birders and naturalists

Thursday, April 20, 2000

7:00 p.m.

Refreshments/Doors open

7:30 p.m. Program

Northbrae Community Church

941 The Alameda, Berkeley

to experience the joys of the Indian wilds firsthand. Please join us this month for an interesting and unusual exploration of natural history in this special part of the world.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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